

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 12, replace the paragraph beginning on line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

--Upon receipt of the response, the client 1 checks the manufacturing-line status, costs, the number of days, and the like. Then, the client 1 selects from specified reservation courses an appropriate course ~~closed~~ close to a desired course, and issues a reservation application for the selected course via the Internet 2. In response to the reservation application, the data-managing center 3 issues a reservation-reception notification to the client 1 via the Internet 2. This completes the reservation processing.--

Page 14, replace the paragraph beginning on line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

--In the above-described example, progress-status information on design, manufacture, and the like are periodically collected in the data-managing center 3. Therefore, the client 1 can obtain desired status information by accessing the data-managing center 3 through the Internet 2. Therefore, according to the present embodiment, the client 1 and the semiconductor manufacturer can monitor the progress of the ASICs production by exchanging information.--

Page 16, replace the paragraph beginning on line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

--Fig. 11 shows an example case where the client 1 places orders with a semiconductor manufacturer only for designing. In the illustrated example, the data-managing center 3 sends, to the designing center 4, release data received from the client 1. After completion of the designing, the designing center 4 sends delivery data to the data-managing center 3. The data-managing center 3 sends the delivery data to the client 1. Thus, the manufacturing center 5 does not participate in the data communication in the illustrated example.--

Page 16, replace the paragraph beginning on line 26 and bridging pages 16 and 17 with the following amended paragraph:

--In many cases of ASIC manufacture, a semiconductor manufacturer provides developing tools and developing libraries to a client 1 to progress development by using common tools. To use the tools, a workstation is necessary. However, ones of the clients 1 posses possess personal computers but do not possess a workstation. Also, other ones of the clients 1 do not like to procure expensive commercially available tools. Taking the above into account, the configuration may be built such that a CAD center is provided as a part of the data-managing center 3 to thereby provide use environments for the developing tools and commercially available tools to the clients 1. In this case, the

client 1 can use the CAD center through the Internet 2.--

Page 19, replace the paragraph beginning on line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

--Normally, the designing center 4 has a number of designing lines, and the manufacturing center 5 also has a number of manufacturing lines. Therefore, in view of the capacity, the designing center 4 and the manufacturing center 5 individually access the data-managing center 3, and can increase or reduce their designing resources and manufacturing resources, according to the reservation status and the design/manufacture status. To implement the above, the data-managing center 3 has the center-operation-status database 60. Fig. 16 shows a practical example of storage contents of the center-operation-status database 60. In reference to Fig. 16, the database 60 has the items items of "Number of Operating Resources", "Number of Resources", and "Operation Ratio" for each of designing centers X₁, X₂, ... and each of manufacturing centers Y₁, Y₂, Y₃, "Operation Ratio" is obtained through the division of "Number of Operating Resources"/"Number of Resources". The figure shows an example status as of April 1, XXXX (year). Therefore, past experiences are shown in the fields of the period up to March, and the reservation status is shown in the field of the period from April. Since the designing center X₁ had operated at high operation ratios, it increased the number of resources in March.

Since the manufacturing center Y3 is additionally included in April, no status is shown in the fields of the period up to March. The low operation ratio thereof in May indicates that sufficient reservation requests are not as yet accepted.--

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

A replacement drawing is submitted for Figure 16, changing the second instance of "MANUFACTURING CENTER Y2" to --MANUFACTURING CENTER Y3--.